

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A packer for packing cartons into boxes having at least one carton transfer location where cartons accumulate for transfer, a box packing location adjacent the transfer location, clamps for gripping the cartons in a group at the transfer location, the clamps being movable for moving the gripped group of cartons from the transfer location to the packing location, and, being releasable for depositing the group of cartons in the box at the packing location. Also disclosed is a carton gripper for gripping groups of cartons, moving the cartons and for packing the groups into boxes and having, a gripper body, slide rods supported on the gripper body, pairs of clamp bars slideable along the slide rods, and, the gripper being movable moving the pairs of clamp bars towards one another into a gripping position and away from one another into a releasing position. Alos disclosed is a method of gripping a group of cartons and transferring them from a conveyor into a box.